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Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 35th, 36th, 39th and 43rd meetings, on 9, 12 and 24 November 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.35, 36, 39 and 43). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/32 and General Assembly resolution 53/196 (A/54/152-E/1999/92);

(b) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

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4. At the 35th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the Regional Commissions New York Office made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.35).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.32

5. At the 39th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" (A/C.2/54/L.32).

6. At the 43rd meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-President of the Committee, Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.32 by a recorded vote of 132 to 3, with 5 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Zambia.

[1] The delegation of Panama subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

9. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Israel and the United States of America; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Bulgaria, Japan and the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.2/54/SR.43).

10. The observer for Palestine also made a statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.43).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/196 of 15 December 1998 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/53 of 29 July 1999,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Aware of the additional, detrimental economic and social impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources,

Expressing the hope that the Middle East peace process, which started at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace, will reach a final settlement within the agreed time-frame, and that final settlement will be reached on all tracks,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[3] A/54/152-E/1999/92, annex.

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, to cause loss or depletion of or to endanger the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

4. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of, or danger to, their natural resources, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

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Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 23rd to 25th, 29th and 51st meetings, from 26 to 28 October and on 1 November and 16 December 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.23-25, 29 and 51). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/54/358);

(b) Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, held from 12 to 15 May 1999 (A/54/98);

(c) Letter dated 9 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the joint communiqué of the Group of Fifteen, adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen, held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 10 to 12 February 1999 (A/54/175);

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(d) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Statement on the South Summit, adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 1999 (A/54/432).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.19 and A/C.2/54/L.76 and amendments contained in documents A/C.2/54/L.77 and A/C.2/54/L.78

4. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" (A/C.2/54/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/169 of 15 December 1998,

"*Recognizing* the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

"*Expressing concern* over the exclusion of a large number of developing countries from the globalization process, including in the finance, trade and technology sectors, and the increasing vulnerability of those developing countries that are integrating into the world economy and the accentuation of economic asymmetries within and among countries,

"*Recognizing* that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities, through trade and capital flows, for the growth of the world economy,

"*Emphasizing* that the inherent imbalances in the structures of the international regimes governing development, finance, trade and transfer of technology have further aggravated the negative impacts of globalization on developing countries,

"*Expressing* grave concern over the widening technological gap between the developing and developed countries, particularly in the area of information and communication technology which is shaping the contours of globalization,

"*Noting with serious concern* that the benefits of existing multilateral trading systems continue to elude the developing countries,

"*Underlining* the need for wide-ranging reform of the international financial architecture,

"*Stressing* that the domestic policies of the developing countries could yield better results with international support and with the creation of an enabling international economic environment,

"*Underlining* the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy in order to enable them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

"*Underscoring* the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence on all developing countries, in particular the

African countries, the least developed countries, small and vulnerable economies, and the small island developing States,

"*Convinced* of the need to manage globalization so as to ensure equity, transparency, inclusion and the realization of the goal of development of developing countries,

"*Reiterating* that the United Nations is in a unique position, as a universal forum, to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

"*Convinced* that the United Nations has a key role in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in addressing economic and development issues at the global level,

"*Noting* the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

"*Noting also Human Development Report, 1999,* which focuses on globalization with a human face,

"*Noting with appreciation* that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its tenth session, to be held in February 2000 in Bangkok, will focus on developmental strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people,

"1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in providing policy guidance on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

"2. *Emphasizes* the urgency of coordinated action by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization for developing a global approach to mitigating the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

"3. *Calls* for effective governance of globalization through democratization of international economic policy decision-making; integrated consideration of trade, finance, technology transfer and developmental issues by the relevant international institutions; and reform of the international financial architecture and, in this context, calls for close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization;

"4. *Calls upon* the developed countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to creating an enabling international economic environment supportive of the development of developing countries;

"5. *Urges* the international community to promote international development cooperation based on economic growth, stability and equity with the full participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;

"6. *Also urges* the international community to adopt a policy framework that should aim at the creation of equitable and development-oriented international structures in finance, trade and transfer of technology, and address the endemic problems of external debt and transfer of resources, financial vulnerability, declining terms of trade and restricted access to developed country markets;

"7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre to help developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small and vulnerable economies and the small island developing States, in addressing their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade, policy, improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, in particular in electronic commerce;

"8. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the World Trade Organization, to immediately operationalize the special and differential treatment provisions of the multilateral trade agreements so as to enable the developing countries, including the African countries, the least developed countries, small and vulnerable economies and the small island developing States, to derive the potential benefits from trade liberalization in the context of globalization and interdependence;

"9. *Calls* for the reform of the global financial architecture which should include greater participation by the developing countries in the decision-making processes of the international financial institutions, more emphasis on financing for development, and greater financial stability;

"10. *Strongly stresses* that the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization should intensify their collaboration with a view to promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade and development issues at the global level with a view to optimizing the benefits and minimizing the negative consequences of globalization, liberalization and interdependence and, in this regard, invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare an analytical report on this issue, in collaboration with the relevant agencies and organizations, and submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

"11. *Emphasizes* the technology-led dimension of globalization and the importance of providing access, including on preferential and concessional terms, to information and communication technology to enable the developing countries effectively to benefit from globalization by full and effective integration in the emerging global information network;

"12. *Strongly emphasizes* the need for the regional and national capacity-building programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, United Nations funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies to have a strong component oriented towards assisting the developing countries in the area of information and communication technology;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, in consultation with the entities of the United Nations system, on action taken in the area of information and communication technology in accordance with paragraph 12 above;

"14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc group of governmental experts on information and communication technology, taking into account equitable geographical representation and in consultation with Member States, with a view to preparing action-oriented proposals on the role of the United Nations in enhancing the integration of developing countries in the emerging global information network; facilitating developing countries' access to information and communication technologies on preferential and concessional terms; and promoting

the participation of developing countries, including through infrastructure facilities, in knowledge-intensive sectors of the global economy;

"15. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and analytical report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"16. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled 'Globalization and interdependence'."

5. At the 51st meeting, on 16 December, the Committee had before it draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76, submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Giovanni Brauzzi (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.19.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee also had before it an amendment (A/C.2/54/L.77) to draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76, submitted by Portugal on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, by which operative paragraph 10 would be replaced by the following text:

"10. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular foreign direct investment, market access, good governance, an increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, the tackling of unsustainable debt burdens, including through debt conversion measures, flexibility in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in all African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General."

7. The Committee also had before it an amendment (A/C.2/54/L.78) to draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76, submitted by Australia, by which operative paragraph 10 would be replaced by the following text:

"10. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular for foreign direct investment, and of market access, effective governance with efficient, participatory, transparent and accountable public service, policies and administration, an increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, tackling unsustainable debt burdens, including debt conversion measures and flexibility in the implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and, in this regard, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General, support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy."

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Guyana made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, in which he requested a suspension of the meeting (see A/C.2/54/SR.51).

9. On the resumption of the 51st meeting, the representative of Finland made a statement on behalf of the European Union (see A/C.2/54/SR.51).

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, proposed that the amendment (A/C.2/54/L.78) submitted by Australia to operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76 be further amended as follows:

(a) The words "effective governance with efficient, participatory, transparent and accountable public service and administration" would be replaced by the words "governance responsive to the needs of the people with efficient, participatory, transparent and accountable public service, policy-making processes and administration";

(b) The words "in this regard" would be deleted.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia and Cameroon (see A/C.2/54/SR.51).

12. The Chairman then made a statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.51).

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76 as amended (see para. 16).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

15. The amendment submitted by Portugal on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (A/C.2/54/L.77) to draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76 was also withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/169 of 15 December 1998,

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

Expressing serious concern over the increasing risks of marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the globalization process, including in the finance, trade and technology sectors, and the additional vulnerability of those developing countries that are in the process of integrating into the world economy, resulting in particular from the volatility of short-term capital flows and the accentuation of income disparities within and among countries,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows, and advancements in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, for development and for the improvement of living standards around the world,

Emphasizing that the international systems dealing with development, finance, trade and transfer of technology should further address the negative impacts of globalization on developing countries,

Expressing grave concern over the generally widening technological gap between the developed and developing countries, particularly in the area of information and communication technology, which is shaping the contours of globalization,

Mindful, in the process of trade liberalization, of the diminution of trade preferential margins for developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, and of the need for countries to take measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to address that diminution with a view to offsetting it,

Underlining the need to continue work on a wide range of reforms to create a strengthened international financial system,

Recognizing the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound macroeconomic and social policies, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts of the least developed countries, in particular, to improve their institutional and management capacities, and also recognizing that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Underlining the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy in order to enable them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Underscoring the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence for all developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries,

Convinced of the need, in the context of globalization and interdependence, to develop and implement policies to promote equity, transparency and inclusion, with the goal of promoting development, particularly of developing countries,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universal forum, is in a unique position to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Convinced that the United Nations has a key role to play in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in addressing economic and development issues at the global level,

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,[1]

Noting also the *Human Development Report, 1999*,[2] which focuses on globalization with a human face,

Taking note, in the context of globalization and interdependence, of the ongoing work of the Commonwealth Secretariat/World Bank Joint Task Force on Small States,

Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its tenth session, to be held at Bangkok in February 2000, will focus on "Development strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people",

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2000 to the theme "Development and international

[1] A/54/358.

[2] New York, Oxford University Press, 1999.

cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy",[3]

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting greater policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

2. *Strongly stresses* that the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization should intensify their collaboration, as appropriate, in promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade and development issues at the global level, which should aim at optimizing the benefits and minimizing the negative consequences of globalization, liberalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;

3. *Calls* for increased international cooperation to address the challenges of globalization through the enhanced participation of developing countries in the international economic policy decision-making process; integrated consideration of trade, finance, technology transfer and development issues by the relevant international institutions; and the continuation of a wide range of reforms of the international financial system;

4. *Calls upon* all countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to creating an enabling international economic environment supportive of development, in particular of developing countries;

5. *Stresses* the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources, so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development, *inter alia* through national poverty reduction strategies and enhanced policy coherence;

6. *Urges* the international community to promote international development cooperation aimed at enhancing the participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;

7. *Also urges* the international community to adopt policies that promote equity in finance, trade and transfer of technology and address the problems of developing countries in the areas of external debt and transfer of resources, financial vulnerability, declining terms of trade and market access;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre and other multilateral and bilateral efforts to help developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries, in addressing their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade and policy, in the improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, and in electronic commerce;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

10. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular foreign direct investment, and of market access, governance responsive to the

[3] Economic and Social Council decision 1999/281.

needs of the people with efficient, participatory, transparent and accountable public service, policy-making processes and administration, an increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, tackling unsustainable debt burdens, including debt conversion measures and flexibility in the implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General,[4] support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy;

11. *Emphasizes* the technology-led dimension of globalization and the importance of facilitating access to and transfer of information and communication technology and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, to enable them to benefit from globalization through full and effective integration into the emerging global information network;

12. *Strongly emphasizes* the need for the regional and national capacity-building programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to have a strong component oriented towards assisting developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in the area of information and communication technology;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with other relevant organizations, a comprehensive report containing action-oriented recommendations on further promoting the role of the United Nations system in the transfer of information and communication technology to developing countries and also on its role in promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade, technology and development issues at the global level in order to optimize the benefits of globalization;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to convene, if possible, from extrabudgetary resources, a meeting of a high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology, taking into account equitable geographical representation, and in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, to be made available in early June 2000, containing recommendations on the role of the United Nations in enhancing the integration of developing countries in the emerging global information network; facilitating access for developing countries to information and communication technology, including access on preferential and concessional terms, where appropriate, and promoting the participation of developing countries, *inter alia* through infrastructure facilities, in knowledge-intensive sectors of the global economy;

15. *Invites* countries, and other relevant entities in a position to do so, to provide the necessary extrabudgetary resources for the convening of the high-level panel;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

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[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 11th, 12th, 15th and 48th meetings, on 12 and 19 October and 9 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.11, 12, 15 and 48). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (A/54/316);

(b) Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Appeal for Peace Conference, held at The Hague from 12 to 15 May 1999 (A/54/98);

(c) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063);

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(d) Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Moscow Declaration of heads of States Parties to the Treaty on the Customs Union and Unified Economic Space, signed in Moscow on 26 October 1999 (A/54/535).

4. At the 11th meeting, on 12 October, the Deputy Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.11).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.3 and A/C.2/54/L.69

5. At the 15th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/54/L.3), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 53/198 of 15 December 1998 regarding the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and all of its other resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries,

"*Recalling also* the declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits in the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"*Expressing its deep concern* that efforts to reduce global poverty, in particular in the developing countries, have been severely constrained by the slowdown in the global economy, negative effects of globalization, financial crises and declining commodity prices,

"*Expressing further deep concern* that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected,

"*Expressing concern* about the increasing economic disparities within and among countries and its negative impact on the national and international efforts to eradicate poverty,

"*Recognizing* that the combined effects of natural disasters, conflicts, entrenched poverty, diseases, especially the malaria and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome epidemic, and lack of proper education affect the economic prospects of and efforts to eradicate poverty in the most severely affected countries, especially in Africa,

"*Recognizing also* that globalization poses severe challenges and risks, particularly for developing countries, at a time when they are intensifying their efforts towards achieving sustained economic growth and directing their national policies towards realizing the objective of eradicating poverty,

"*Recognizing further* that, while it is the responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries in eradicating poverty,

"*Emphasizing* the need to further strengthen the efforts of international organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system within their respective mandates to implement measures and actions to eradicate poverty as well as those of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the developed countries that have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance,

"*Noting with appreciation* the Cologne Initiative and the decision taken by the Bretton Woods institutions to make poverty eradication the priority in their programmes and policy advice, and the enhancement introduced to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative with a view to achieving faster, deeper and broader debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries,

"1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation;

"2. *Reiterates also* the call for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and, in this context, calls for specific action aimed at achieving tangible results annually with a view to realizing the objectives of the Decade as soon as possible;

"3. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes and promotes equitable income distribution for the eradication of poverty;

"4. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate, as they deem appropriate, the recommendations made by the Secretary-General for action and initiatives for poverty eradication towards the new millennium in designing and implementing their national poverty alleviation strategies and exploring policies best suited to their national circumstances with a view to maximizing the effect of poverty reduction and eradication;

"5. *Urges* strengthened international efforts to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment to facilitate their integration into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources, and initiating innovative debt-relief mechanisms for the developing countries, so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization and cope with its negative effects as well as avoid marginalization;

"6. *Calls upon* all countries to formulate and implement national strategies and programmes, including setting time-bound targets for poverty reduction;

"7. *Reaffirms* that mainstreaming a gender perspective in an active and visible manner into all policies and programmes aimed at poverty eradication at both the national and international levels is key to a successful poverty eradication strategy;

"8. *Calls upon* the developing countries to fulfil the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross domestic product for the least developed countries;

"9. *Also calls upon* the developing countries to facilitate the transfer of technology and access to knowledge on preferential and concessional terms in order to enable the developing countries to benefit from the phenomenon of globalization, which is influenced in large measure by technology;

"10. *Encourages* Governments to adopt policies promoting the effective use and development of microcredit, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and regional organizations to support and further develop other microfinance instruments;

"11. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations system to give priority to poverty eradication and to enhance coordination in this regard, and encourages those agencies of the United Nations system as well as other partners in development to continue to support Member States through *inter alia*, advocacy actions to generate political support within the donor countries, for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

"12. *Calls upon* the developed countries that have not done so to provide the required financing for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in order to contribute to the achievement of poverty reduction in a sustainable manner in these countries;

"13. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations to examine ways and means of assisting the growing number of middle-income developing countries facing mounting poverty levels resulting from their current difficulties in servicing their external debt and hampering their efforts to effectively combat poverty;

"14. *Decides* to promote the examination in all relevant intergovernmental forums of ways and means to integrate poverty reduction objectives in the context of the development concerns of developing countries into ongoing discussions on the international financial development architecture;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including a thorough examination of the impact of globalization and interdependence on poverty eradication, recommendations for possible actions and initiatives for poverty eradication in the process of globalization, as well as on the implementation of the present resolution;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)'."

6. At the 48th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/54/L.69), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.3.

7. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 13, the words "production and self-employment" were replaced by the words "productive self-employment";

(b) In operative paragraph 19, the words "other highly indebted middle-income debtor countries" were replaced by the words "other highly indebted middle-income countries"; in the same paragraph, the words "high liquidity constraints" were replaced by the words "higher liquidity constraints".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.69, as orally revised (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.69, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.3 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 53/198 of 15 December 1998 regarding the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and all of its other resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries,

Recalling also the declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),[1]

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group,

Expressing its deep concern also that efforts to reduce poverty have been severely constrained because of the slowing down of economic growth in developing countries, as a result of, *inter alia* and in particular, the 1997-1998 financial crisis and declining commodity prices, and noting that while some of the most visible effects of the crisis are being overcome in some regions and sectors, there is a need to sustain and expand the momentum of recovery,

Recognizing that, while the process of globalization brings with it opportunities, it poses new challenges and risks for developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, at a time when they are intensifying their efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and directing their national policies towards the eradication of poverty through the implementation of comprehensive strategies, policies and programmes, including those with a long-term perspective,

[1] A/54/316.

Recognizing also that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized, others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, and there is increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing further that the combined effects of natural disasters, conflicts, entrenched poverty, disease, especially malaria and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome epidemic, and lack of proper education affect the economic prospects of and efforts to eradicate poverty in the most severely affected countries, especially in Africa,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and to ensure basic social protection,

Expressing its appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen further the efforts of international organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund within their respective mandates, as well as the efforts of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to implement measures and take action to eradicate poverty within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

Noting with appreciation the debt initiative launched by the Group of Seven major industrialized countries, at its meeting held at Cologne, Germany, from 18 to 20 June 1999, the decisions taken by the international community to assign priority to the eradication of poverty in the programmes and policy advice of the Bretton Woods institutions and the enhancement to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative introduced with a view to achieving more rapid, deeper and broader debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries,

1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation;

2. *Reiterates also* the call for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments adopted at major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to the eradication of poverty, and, in this context, calls for specific action aimed at achieving tangible results through an output-oriented approach to attaining the objectives of the Decade as soon as possible;

3. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication by fostering, *inter alia*, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and to an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration;

4. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role, in the eradication of poverty, of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes, promotes equitable income distribution and minimizes environmental degradation;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including sound macroeconomic and social policies, in order to realize the objective of eradicating poverty;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate, as they deem appropriate, the recommendations made by the Secretary-General for possible action and initiatives for poverty eradication towards the new millennium[2] in the design and implementation of their national poverty alleviation strategies and to explore policies best suited to their national circumstances with a view to maximizing efforts aimed at poverty reduction and eradication;

7. *Reaffirms* that the causes of poverty should be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies, such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter, the development of human resources including education, fresh water, rural development and productive employment, and of the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic integration;

8. *Urges* the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief for developing countries, and emphasizes that the international community should consider further measures that would lead to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization, cope with its negative effects, avoid being marginalized in the process of globalization and achieve full integration into the world economy;

9. *Calls upon* all countries to formulate and implement outcome-oriented national strategies and programmes, including setting time-bound targets for poverty reduction, and, in this context, notes the efforts being made to achieve the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, which requires strengthened national action and international assistance;

10. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

11. *Calls upon* the developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall

[2] A/54/316, sect. V.

official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of increasing the control of the poor over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections;

13. *Emphasizes also* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes the generation of productive self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development and capacity of microcredit institutions, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach into their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other microfinancing instruments;

14. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and to facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

15. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education and training and basic education in the empowerment of those living in poverty, notes the importance of the world forum on education to be held at Dakar in April 2000, and invites the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to propose measures aimed at enhancing the role of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, in helping Member States to provide effective and equitable education for all;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations system to assign priority to the eradication of poverty and to enhance coordination and, in this regard, encourages those agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other partners in development to continue to support all Member States in carrying forward their own strategy for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment of interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and welcomes the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative,[3] which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;

18. *Welcomes* the Cologne debt initiative, launched in June 1999, which called for substantial additional financing, and recognizes the importance of fair burden-sharing among creditors and the recent decisions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, which should provide deeper, broader and faster debt relief that will contribute to the reduction of poverty in a sustainable manner in those countries;

[3] See A/51/140, annex.

19. *Recognizes* the difficulties of highly indebted middle-income developing countries and other highly indebted middle-income countries in meeting their external debt and debt-servicing obligations and notes the worsening situation in some of them in the context, *inter alia*, of higher liquidity constraints, which may require debt treatment including, as appropriate, debt-reduction measures that will assist them in their efforts effectively to combat poverty;

20. *Encourages* the continued examination in all relevant intergovernmental forums of ways and means to integrate poverty reduction objectives and strategies into discussions on international financial and development issues;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities relating to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including a thorough examination of the impact of globalization on the eradication of poverty, recommendations for possible action and initiatives for the eradication of poverty and proposals for better coordination of action taken by the United Nations system, as well as on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" and to allocate to the Second Committee the relevant chapters of the Council's report.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 36th, 39th, 42nd, 43rd and 51st meetings, on 9, 12, 18 and 24 November and 16 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.36, 39, 42, 43 and 51). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/54/3);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 with reference to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 (A/54/443 and Add.1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/54/407);

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

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(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report by the Director of the United Nations Staff College at Turin, Italy (A/54/481).

4. At the 36th meeting, on 9 November 1999, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.36).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft decision proposed by the Vice-Chairman

5. By its resolution 1999/7 of 26 July 1999, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit to the General Assembly, for consideration with a view to their adoption, the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection (as expanded in 1999). The guidelines were transmitted to the Committee in a note by the Secretariat (A/C.2/54/L.24).

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 18 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Giovanni Brauzzi (Italy), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the guidelines transmitted by the Council.

7. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Vice-Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it adopt the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (as expanded in 1999) (see para. 16, draft decision I).

B. Draft decisions A/C.2/54/L.31 and A/C.2/54/L.41

8. At the 39th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft decision entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" (A/C.2/54/L.31), which read:

> "The General Assembly:
>
> "(a) Takes note of Economic and Social Council decision 1999/277 on the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, which report is to be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development;
>
> "(b) Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider, at its eighth session, the relevant part of the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/47, 1999/48 and 1999/49 of 28 July 1999 and General Assembly resolution 50/126 of 20 December 1995, and to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report for its consideration."

9. At the 43rd meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Giovanni Brauzzi (Italy), introduced a draft decision entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" (A/C.2/54/L.41), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft decision A/C.2/54/L.31.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/54/L.41 (see para. 16, draft decision II).

11. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Egypt (see A/C.2/54/SR.43).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/54/L.41, draft decision A/C.2/54/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

13. At its 51st meeting, on 16 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of chapters I to V, and VII (sects. A-C and E-H) and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council and of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/54/407, annex) (see para. 16, draft decision III).

D. Biennial programme of work of the Second Committee

14. At the 51st meeting, on 16 December, the Chief of the Documentation Programming and Monitoring Unit introduced and orally revised the draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2000-2001 (A/C.2/54/L.65, annex).

15. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2000-2001, as orally revised, and decided to recommend it to the General Assembly for adoption (see para. 16, draft decision IV).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (as expanded in 1999)

The General Assembly decides to adopt the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (as expanded in 1999), as set out in the annex to the present decision.

Annex

United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (as expanded in 1999)

I. Objectives

1. Taking into account the interests and needs of consumers in all countries, particularly those in developing countries; recognizing that consumers often face imbalances in economic terms, educational levels and bargaining power; and bearing in mind that consumers should have the right of access to non-hazardous products, as well as the right to promote just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection, these guidelines for consumer protection have the following objectives:

(a) To assist countries in achieving or maintaining adequate protection for their population as consumers;

(b) To facilitate production and distribution patterns responsive to the needs and desires of consumers;

(c) To encourage high levels of ethical conduct for those engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services to consumers;

(d) To assist countries in curbing abusive business practices by all enterprises at the national and international levels which adversely affect consumers;

(e) To facilitate the development of independent consumer groups;

(f) To further international cooperation in the field of consumer protection;

(g) To encourage the development of market conditions which provide consumers with greater choice at lower prices;

(h) To promote sustainable consumption.

II. General principles

2. Governments should develop or maintain a strong consumer protection policy, taking into account the guidelines set out below and relevant international agreements. In so doing, each Government should set its own priorities for the protection of consumers in accordance with the economic, social and environmental circumstances of the country and the needs of its population, bearing in mind the costs and benefits of proposed measures.

3. The legitimate needs which the guidelines are intended to meet are the following:

(a) The protection of consumers from hazards to their health and safety;

(b) The promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers;

(c) Access of consumers to adequate information to enable them to make informed choices according to individual wishes and needs;

(d) Consumer education, including education on the environmental, social and economic impacts of consumer choice;

(e) Availability of effective consumer redress;

(f) Freedom to form consumer and other relevant groups or organizations and the opportunity of such organizations to present their views in decision-making processes affecting them;

(g) The promotion of sustainable consumption patterns.

4. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, are the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment. All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns; developed countries should take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption patterns; developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, having due regard to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The special situation and needs of developing countries in this regard should be fully taken into account.

5. Policies for promoting sustainable consumption should take into account the goals of eradicating poverty, satisfying the basic human needs of all members of society, and reducing inequality within and between countries.

6. Governments should provide or maintain adequate infrastructure to develop, implement and monitor consumer protection policies. Special care should be taken to ensure that measures for consumer protection are implemented for the benefit of all sectors of the population, particularly the rural population and people living in poverty.

7. All enterprises should obey the relevant laws and regulations of the countries in which they do business. They should also conform to the appropriate provisions of international standards for consumer protection to which the competent authorities of the country in question have agreed. (Hereinafter, references to international standards in the guidelines should be viewed in the context of this paragraph.)

8. The potential positive role of universities and public and private enterprises in research should be considered when developing consumer protection policies.

III. Guidelines

9. The following guidelines should apply both to home-produced goods and services and to imports.

10. In applying any procedures or regulations for consumer protection, due regard should be given to ensuring that they do not become barriers to international trade and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

A. Physical safety

11. Governments should adopt or encourage the adoption of appropriate measures, including legal systems, safety regulations, national or international standards, voluntary standards and the maintenance of safety records to ensure that products are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use.

12. Appropriate policies should ensure that goods produced by manufacturers are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use. Those responsible for bringing goods to the market, in particular suppliers, exporters, importers, retailers and the like (hereinafter referred to as "distributors"), should ensure that while in their care these goods are not rendered unsafe through improper handling or storage and that while in their care they do not become hazardous through improper handling or storage. Consumers should be instructed in the proper use of goods and should be informed of the risks involved in intended or normally foreseeable use. Vital safety information should be conveyed to consumers by internationally understandable symbols wherever possible.

13. Appropriate policies should ensure that if manufacturers or distributors become aware of unforeseen hazards after products are placed on the market, they should notify the relevant authorities and, as appropriate, the public without delay. Governments should also consider ways of ensuring that consumers are properly informed of such hazards.

14. Governments should, where appropriate, adopt policies under which, if a product is found to be seriously defective and/or to constitute a substantial and severe hazard even when properly used, manufacturers and/or distributors should recall it and replace or modify it, or substitute another product for it; if it is not possible to do this within a reasonable period of time, the consumer should be adequately compensated.

B. Promotion and protection of consumers' economic interests

15. Government policies should seek to enable consumers to obtain optimum benefit from their economic resources. They should also seek to achieve the goals of satisfactory production and performance standards, adequate distribution methods, fair business

practices, informative marketing and effective protection against practices which could adversely affect the economic interests of consumers and the exercise of choice in the market place.

16. Governments should intensify their efforts to prevent practices which are damaging to the economic interests of consumers through ensuring that manufacturers, distributors and others involved in the provision of goods and services adhere to established laws and mandatory standards. Consumer organizations should be encouraged to monitor adverse practices, such as the adulteration of foods, false or misleading claims in marketing and service frauds.

17. Governments should develop, strengthen or maintain, as the case may be, measures relating to the control of restrictive and other abusive business practices which may be harmful to consumers, including means for the enforcement of such measures. In this connection, Governments should be guided by their commitment to the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/63 of 5 December 1980.

18. Governments should adopt or maintain policies that make clear the responsibility of the producer to ensure that goods meet reasonable demands of durability, utility and reliability, and are suited to the purpose for which they are intended, and that the seller should see that these requirements are met. Similar policies should apply to the provision of services.

19. Governments should encourage fair and effective competition in order to provide consumers with the greatest range of choice among products and services at the lowest cost.

20. Governments should, where appropriate, see to it that manufacturers and/or retailers ensure adequate availability of reliable after-sales service and spare parts.

21. Consumers should be protected from such contractual abuses as one-sided standard contracts, exclusion of essential rights in contracts and unconscionable conditions of credit by sellers.

22. Promotional marketing and sales practices should be guided by the principle of fair treatment of consumers and should meet legal requirements. This requires the provision of the information necessary to enable consumers to take informed and independent decisions, as well as measures to ensure that the information provided is accurate.

23. Governments should encourage all concerned to participate in the free flow of accurate information on all aspects of consumer products.

24. Consumer access to accurate information about the environmental impact of products and services should be encouraged through such means as product profiles, environmental reports by industry, information centres for consumers, voluntary and transparent eco-labelling programmes and product information hotlines.

25. Governments, in close collaboration with manufacturers, distributors and consumer organizations, should take measures regarding misleading environmental claims or information in advertising and other marketing activities. The development of appropriate advertising codes and standards for the regulation and verification of environmental claims should be encouraged.

26. Governments should, within their own national context, encourage the formulation and implementation by business, in cooperation with consumer organizations, of codes of marketing and other business practices to ensure adequate consumer protection. Voluntary

agreements may also be established jointly by business, consumer organizations and other interested parties. These codes should receive adequate publicity.

27. Governments should regularly review legislation pertaining to weights and measures and assess the adequacy of the machinery for its enforcement.

C. Standards for the safety and quality of consumer goods and services

28. Governments should, as appropriate, formulate or promote the elaboration and implementation of standards, voluntary and other, at the national and international levels for the safety and quality of goods and services and give them appropriate publicity. National standards and regulations for product safety and quality should be reviewed from time to time, in order to ensure that they conform, where possible, to generally accepted international standards.

29. Where a standard lower than the generally accepted international standard is being applied because of local economic conditions, every effort should be made to raise that standard as soon as possible.

30. Governments should encourage and ensure the availability of facilities to test and certify the safety, quality and performance of essential consumer goods and services.

D. Distribution facilities for essential consumer goods and services

31. Governments should, where appropriate, consider:

(a) Adopting or maintaining policies to ensure the efficient distribution of goods and services to consumers; where appropriate, specific policies should be considered to ensure the distribution of essential goods and services where this distribution is endangered, as could be the case particularly in rural areas. Such policies could include assistance for the creation of adequate storage and retail facilities in rural centres, incentives for consumer self-help and better control of the conditions under which essential goods and services are provided in rural areas;

(b) Encouraging the establishment of consumer cooperatives and related trading activities, as well as information about them, especially in rural areas.

E. Measures enabling consumers to obtain redress

32. Governments should establish or maintain legal and/or administrative measures to enable consumers or, as appropriate, relevant organizations to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, inexpensive and accessible. Such procedures should take particular account of the needs of low-income consumers.

33. Governments should encourage all enterprises to resolve consumer disputes in a fair, expeditious and informal manner, and to establish voluntary mechanisms, including advisory services and informal complaints procedures, which can provide assistance to consumers.

34. Information on available redress and other dispute-resolving procedures should be made available to consumers.

F. Education and information programmes

35. Governments should develop or encourage the development of general consumer education and information programmes, including information on the environmental impacts of consumer choices and behaviour and the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, bearing in mind the cultural traditions of the people

concerned. The aim of such programmes should be to enable people to act as discriminating consumers, capable of making an informed choice of goods and services, and conscious of their rights and responsibilities. In developing such programmes, special attention should be given to the needs of disadvantaged consumers, in both rural and urban areas, including low-income consumers and those with low or non-existent literacy levels. Consumer groups, business and other relevant organizations of civil society should be involved in these educational efforts.

36. Consumer education should, where appropriate, become an integral part of the basic curriculum of the educational system, preferably as a component of existing subjects.

37. Consumer education and information programmes should cover such important aspects of consumer protection as the following:

(a) Health, nutrition, prevention of food-borne diseases and food adulteration;

(b) Product hazards;

(c) Product labelling;

(d) Relevant legislation, how to obtain redress, and agencies and organizations for consumer protection;

(e) Information on weights and measures, prices, quality, credit conditions and availability of basic necessities;

(f) Environmental protection;

(g) Efficient use of materials, energy and water.

38. Governments should encourage consumer organizations and other interested groups, including the media, to undertake education and information programmes, including on the environmental impacts of consumption patterns and on the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, particularly for the benefit of low-income consumer groups in rural and urban areas.

39. Business should, where appropriate, undertake or participate in factual and relevant consumer education and information programmes.

40. Bearing in mind the need to reach rural consumers and illiterate consumers, Governments should, as appropriate, develop or encourage the development of consumer information programmes in the mass media.

41. Governments should organize or encourage training programmes for educators, mass media professionals and consumer advisers, to enable them to participate in carrying out consumer information and education programmes.

G. Promotion of sustainable consumption

42. Sustainable consumption includes meeting the needs of present and future generations for goods and services in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

43. Responsibility for sustainable consumption is shared by all members and organizations of society, with informed consumers, Government, business, labour organizations, and consumer and environmental organizations playing particularly important roles. Informed consumers have an essential role in promoting consumption that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, including through the effects of their choices on producers. Governments should promote the development and implementation of policies for sustainable consumption and the integration of those policies with other public policies.

Government policy-making should be conducted in consultation with business, consumer and environmental organizations, and other concerned groups. Business has a responsibility for promoting sustainable consumption through the design, production and distribution of goods and services. Consumer and environmental organizations have a responsibility for promoting public participation and debate on sustainable consumption, for informing consumers, and for working with Government and business towards sustainable consumption.

44. Governments, in partnership with business and relevant organizations of civil society, should develop and implement strategies that promote sustainable consumption through a mix of policies that could include regulations; economic and social instruments; sectoral policies in such areas as land use, transport, energy and housing; information programmes to raise awareness of the impact of consumption patterns; removal of subsidies that promote unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and promotion of sector-specific environmental-management best practices.

45. Governments should encourage the design, development and use of products and services that are safe and energy and resource efficient, considering their full life-cycle impacts. Governments should encourage recycling programmes that encourage consumers to both recycle wastes and purchase recycled products.

46. Governments should promote the development and use of national and international environmental health and safety standards for products and services; such standards should not result in disguised barriers to trade.

47. Governments should encourage impartial environmental testing of products.

48. Governments should safely manage environmentally harmful uses of substances and encourage the development of environmentally sound alternatives for such uses. New potentially hazardous substances should be evaluated on a scientific basis for their long-term environmental impact prior to distribution.

49. Governments should promote awareness of the health-related benefits of sustainable consumption and production patterns, bearing in mind both direct effects on individual health and collective effects through environmental protection.

50. Governments, in partnership with the private sector and other relevant organizations, should encourage the transformation of unsustainable consumption patterns through the development and use of new environmentally sound products and services and new technologies, including information and communication technologies, that can meet consumer needs while reducing pollution and depletion of natural resources.

51. Governments are encouraged to create or strengthen effective regulatory mechanisms for the protection of consumers, including aspects of sustainable consumption.

52. Governments should consider a range of economic instruments, such as fiscal instruments and internalization of environmental costs, to promote sustainable consumption, taking into account social needs, the need for disincentives for unsustainable practices and incentives for more sustainable practices, while avoiding potential negative effects for market access, in particular for developing countries.

53. Governments, in cooperation with business and other relevant groups, should develop indicators, methodologies and databases for measuring progress towards sustainable consumption at all levels. This information should be publicly available.

54. Governments and international agencies should take the lead in introducing sustainable practices in their own operations, in particular through their procurement policies.

Government procurement, as appropriate, should encourage development and use of environmentally sound products and services.

55. Governments and other relevant organizations should promote research on consumer behaviour related to environmental damage in order to identify ways to make consumption patterns more sustainable.

H. Measures relating to specific areas

56. In advancing consumer interests, particularly in developing countries, Governments should, where appropriate, give priority to areas of essential concern for the health of the consumer, such as food, water and pharmaceuticals. Policies should be adopted or maintained for product quality control, adequate and secure distribution facilities, standardized international labelling and information, as well as education and research programmes in these areas. Government guidelines in regard to specific areas should be developed in the context of the provisions of this document.

Food

57. When formulating national policies and plans with regard to food, Governments should take into account the need of all consumers for food security, and should support and, as far as possible, adopt standards from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius or, in their absence, other generally accepted international food standards. Governments should maintain, develop or improve food safety measures, including, *inter alia*, safety criteria, food standards and dietary requirements and effective monitoring, inspection and evaluation mechanisms.

58. Governments should promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices, conservation of biodiversity, and protection of soil and water, taking into account traditional knowledge.

Water

59. Governments should, within the goals and targets set for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, formulate, maintain or strengthen national policies to improve the supply, distribution and quality of water for drinking. Due regard should be paid to the choice of appropriate levels of service, quality and technology, the need for education programmes and the importance of community participation.

60. Governments should assign high priority to the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes concerning the multiple uses of water, taking into account the importance of water for sustainable development in general and its finite character as a resource.

Pharmaceuticals

61. Governments should develop or maintain adequate standards, provisions and appropriate regulatory systems for ensuring the quality and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals through integrated national drug policies which could address, *inter alia*, procurement, distribution, production, licensing arrangements, registration systems and the availability of reliable information on pharmaceuticals. In so doing, Governments should take special account of the work and recommendations of the World Health Organization on pharmaceuticals. For relevant products, the use of that organization's Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce and other international information systems on pharmaceuticals should be encouraged. Measures

should also be taken, as appropriate, to promote the use of international non-proprietary names (INNs) for drugs, drawing on the work done by the World Health Organization.

62. In addition to the priority areas indicated above, Governments should adopt appropriate measures in other areas, such as pesticides and chemicals, in regard, where relevant, to their use, production and storage, taking into account such relevant health and environmental information as Governments may require producers to provide and include in the labelling of products.

IV. International cooperation

63. Governments should, especially in a regional or subregional context:

(a) Develop, review, maintain or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms for the exchange of information on national policies and measures in the field of consumer protection;

(b) Cooperate or encourage cooperation in the implementation of consumer protection policies to achieve greater results within existing resources. Examples of such cooperation could be collaboration in the setting up or joint use of testing facilities, common testing procedures, exchange of consumer information and education programmes, joint training programmes and joint elaboration of regulations;

(c) Cooperate to improve the conditions under which essential goods are offered to consumers, giving due regard to both price and quality. Such cooperation could include joint procurement of essential goods, exchange of information on different procurement possibilities and agreements on regional product specifications.

64. Governments should develop or strengthen information links regarding products which have been banned, withdrawn or severely restricted in order to enable other importing countries to protect themselves adequately against the harmful effects of such products.

65. Governments should work to ensure that the quality of products, and information relating to such products, does not vary from country to country in a way that would have detrimental effects on consumers.

66. To promote sustainable consumption, Governments, international bodies and business should work together to develop, transfer and disseminate environmentally sound technologies, including through appropriate financial support from developed countries, and to devise new and innovative mechanisms for financing their transfer among all countries, in particular to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

67. Governments and international organizations, as appropriate, should promote and facilitate capacity-building in the area of sustainable consumption, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In particular, Governments should also facilitate cooperation among consumer groups and other relevant organizations of civil society, with the aim of strengthening capacity in this area.

68. Governments and international bodies, as appropriate, should promote programmes relating to consumer education and information.

69. Governments should work to ensure that policies and measures for consumer protection are implemented with due regard to their not becoming barriers to international trade, and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

Draft decision II
Report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of Economic and Social Council decision 1999/277 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development[2] that is to be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(b) Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider, at its eighth session, those parts of the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development that are relevant to its agreed programme of work for 2000, bearing in mind the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/47, 1999/48 and 1999/49, of 28 July 1999, and General Assembly resolution 50/126 of 20 December 1995, and to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report for its consideration.

Draft decision III
Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1999 (A/54/3);[3]

(b) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award.[4]

Draft decision IV
Biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2000-2001

The General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, approves the biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 2000-2001, as contained in the annex to the present decision.

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[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 12* (E/1999/32).

[3] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

[4] A/54/407, annex.

Annex

Biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 2000-2001[a]

2000

Item 1
Report of the Economic and Social Council[b]

United Nations Population Award

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund on the United Nations Population Award and Trust Fund (Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112)

Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council concerning the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.41)

Item 2
Macroeconomic policy questions

(a) Trade and development

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours (General Assembly resolution 53/171)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.36)

Report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development and on the developments in the multilateral trading system (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.36/Rev.1)

(b) Commodities

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects (General Assembly resolution 53/174)

(c) External debt crisis and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the external debt crisis and development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.71)

(d) Science and technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.48)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of mechanisms on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.48)[c]

(e) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.38)

Item 3
Sectoral policy questions

(a) Industrial development cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on industrial development cooperation (General Assembly resolution 53/177)

(b) Business and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds (General Assembly resolution 53/176, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.68)

Item 4
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 50/130)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of the preparations for the International Year of Mountains, 2002 (General Assembly resolution 53/24)

(a) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing an update of document A/54/389 (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.63)

Report of the Secretary-General containing a draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.63)[c]

(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 48/181 and 53/179)

(c) Cultural development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on cultural development (General Assembly resolution 53/184)

(d) High-level dialogue on strengthening economic cooperation for development through partnership

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the high-level dialogue on strengthening economic cooperation for development through partnership (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.45)

(e) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.66)

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.66)[c]

Report of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.33)

Item 5
Environment and sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.43)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council concerning the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eighth session (General Assembly resolution 47/191)

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 by the regional commissions and the relevant functional commissions of the Council (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58)

(Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on activities contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58))*

Report of the Secretary-General on measures undertaken in the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51 on the conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems (General Assembly resolution 53/188 and draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of ensuring effective preparations for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 (General Assembly resolution 53/188 and draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58)

(b) Convention on Biological Diversity

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/182 and draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.55 and A/C.2/54/L.58)

(c) Water supply and sanitation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing an assessment of the water supply and sanitation situation in developing countries (General Assembly resolution 50/126 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/47)[c]

(d) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.50)

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.60)

* The General Assembly, in operative paragraph 11 (c) of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.58, invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit its views to the Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.58 and A/C.2/54/L.62)

(f) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61)

(g) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functioning of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54)

Item 6
Operational activities for development

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (General Assembly resolution 39/125)

Item 7
Training and research

United Nations University

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University (General Assembly resolution 3081 (XXVIII) and Assembly decision 52/450)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (General Assembly resolution 53/194)

United Nations Staff College in Turin

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Staff College in Turin (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.42)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.46)

Item 8
Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/53 and draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.32)[c]

Item 9
Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.69)

Item 10
Globalization and interdependence

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and interdependence (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.76)

Item 11
High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.75)

Item 12
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.73)

2001[d]

Item 1
Report of the Economic and Social Council[a]

United Nations Population Award

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund on the United Nations Population Award and Trust Fund (Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112)

Public administration and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225 (A ssembly resolution 53/201)[c]

Item 2
Macroeconomic policy questions

Trade and development

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.40)

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.56)

Item 3
Sectoral policy questions

(a) Business and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on business and development (General Assembly resolution 48/180 and draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.70)

(b) Industrial development cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.64)

Item 4
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements (General Assembly resolution 32/162)[c]

(b) Women in development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on women in development (General Assembly resolution 42/178 and draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.52)

(c) Human resources development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.57)

Item 5
Environment and sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and environment (General Assembly resolution 39/229)[c]

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII))[c]

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its ninth session (General Assembly resolution 47/191)

(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.44)[c]

Item 6
Operational activities for development

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (General Assembly resolution 39/125)

(a) Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities undertaken by the United Nations system (General Assembly resolutions 35/81 and 53/192)[c]

Addendum to the above report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities (General Assembly resolution 53/192)[c]

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Documentation

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation and on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (General Assembly resolutions 50/119 and 52/205 and draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.47)

Report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.49)

Item 7
International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues (draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.53)

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[a] The Second Committee will, in accordance with established practice and in pursuance of General Assembly decision 38/429, hold a general debate each year at the beginning of its work.

[b] The list of questions and documentation under this item corresponds to requests for reports from the General Assembly. The list will be finalized after the Economic and Social Council completes its work in 2000.

[c] Report submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

[d] The programme of work and documentation list for 2001 will be updated in 2000, taking into account the relevant decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

[e] The list of questions and documentation under this item is indicative only of requests for reports from the General Assembly. The list will be finalized after the Economic and Social Council completes its work in 2001.